

CLAIMS:

1. A rinse-off, non-dyeing type hair cosmetic composition comprising the following components (a), (b) and (c):

(a) a polycarboxylic acid or salt thereof,

(b) a hydroxymonocarboxylic acid or salt thereof,

(c) an organic solvent selected from aromatic alcohols, alkylene carbonates and polyols, wherein a weight ratio of the components (a), (b), and (c) in the composition is  $0.33 \leq [(a)+(b)]/(c) \leq 2.5$ , in which the weight of each of (a) and (b) is that as an acid, and the composition has a pH at 25°C from 2.5 to 5 when diluted to 20 times the weight with water.

2. The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein Component (a) is malic acid or salt thereof.

3. The hair cosmetic composition of Claims 1 or 2, wherein Component (b) is glycolic acid or lactic acid, or salt thereof.

4. The hair cosmetic composition of any one of Claims 1 to 3, further comprising a surfactant as Component (d).

5. A method of treating hair, which comprises using A: a hair cosmetic composition comprising:

(a) a polycarboxylic acid or salt thereof, and

(c) an organic solvent selected from aromatic

alcohols, alkylene carbonates and polyols, at a weight ratio of (a)/(c) = 0.6 or greater, and

B: another hair cosmetic composition comprising:

(b) a hydroxymonocarboxylic acid or salt thereof, and

(c) an organic solvent selected from aromatic alcohols, alkylene carbonates and polyols at a weight ratio of (b)/(c) = 0.25 or greater in the order of A followed by B or vice versa.

6. The method of treating hair of Claim 5, wherein Component (a) is malic acid or salt thereof, and Component (b) is glycolic acid or lactic acid, or salt thereof.

7. The method of treating hair of Claims 5 or 6, wherein the pH at 25°C of each of the hair cosmetic compositions A and B is from 2 to 5.5 when diluted to 20 times the weight with water.

8. A hair quality improving cosmetic set comprising two hair cosmetic compositions A and B:

A: a hair cosmetic composition comprising:

(a) a polycarboxylic acid or salt thereof, and

(c) an organic solvent selected from aromatic alcohols, alkylene carbonates and polyols at a weight ratio of (a)/(c) = 0.6 or greater, and

B: a hair cosmetic composition comprising:

(b) a hydroxymonocarboxylic acid or salt thereof, and

(c) an organic solvent selected from aromatic

alcohols, alkylene carbonates and polyols, at a weight ratio of  $(b)/(c) = 0.25$  or greater.

9. The hair quality improving cosmetic set of Claim 8, wherein Component (a) is malic acid or salt thereof, and Component (b) is glycolic acid or lactic acid, or salt thereof.

10. The hair quality improving cosmetic set of Claims 8 or 9, wherein the hair cosmetic compositions A and B each has a pH at 25°C of from 2 to 5.5 when diluted to 20 times the weight with water.